



More than a century ago, miners faced a hopeless problem of hauling copper ore to this canyon for shipment to smelters.

They started with Albert Kleinschmidt's road grade down from their mine, more than a vertical mile above the Snake River about 30 miles downstream from here. After a steamboat failed in 1891, a railroad (now under water) was built past here to their river landing. That did not work either. Large ore trucks finally solved the problem in 1968.

Sign number: 378



Completed in 1910 at a cost of \$3 million, Magic Dam stores water for 89,000 acres of irrigated farms near Shoshone and Richfield.

Rising 129 feet high, it is 700 feet wide. An adjacent 1,600-foot embankment with a concrete spillway helps retain more than 190,000 acre-feet of spring floodwater for summer use downstream. A four-mile desert road reaches Magic Dam, which provides fishing and recreational opportunities in a broad valley northwest of here.

Sign number: 398



Rich strikes in 1879 led to a rush to the lead-silver mines of this valley. Eventually, the famous Minnie Moore Mine alone produced a total of \$8.4 million worth of ore.

Mining quickly brought a railroad and prosperity, and for a time this was the leading region of Idaho. Hailey had Idaho's earliest phone service (1883) and three daily newspapers. A Ketchum smelter pioneered electric lighting in Idaho. But times changed: lodes ran out, mining declined, and now these hills attract more skiers than miners.

Sign number: 154

*Four wagons pulled
by a team of 16
horses cross the
Wood River near
Ketchum.*

